

Fast Facts for Families and Community Partners about... Pediatric Home Health Care Services

When do families need Home Health Care Services for a child or youth with special health care needs?

- After a child's medical needs have been evaluated by a physician and he/she indicates there is a medical necessity for health care in the home.
- A child has established medical necessity, would not be able to live at home without professional care, and child is in danger of needing to be institutionalized or put in a medical foster care home.
- When a child requires the skills of a registered nurse (RN), certified nurse's aide/attendant (CNA), physical therapist (PT), or occupational therapist (OT) over an extended period of time.
- Child has an established medical necessity and
 - the family is ready to have assistance in their home
 - the family member in charge can no longer physically take care of the child, for example when the caregiver gets older, becomes seriously ill or suffers a serious injury
 - child experiences the loss of parent or primary care giver through death or divorce

What Home Health Care Services do children with special needs typically need?

- Occasionally, families need highly skilled professional medical care in the home, such as skilled nursing or physical therapy.
- More often, families need help with ordinary daily activities that can be done by a certified nurse's aide/attendant (CNA). These daily activities are called, "Activities of Daily Living" or ADL's.
- In an 18-month period, Colorado Medicaid had nearly 1000 children (birth to 18 years) with long-term health conditions who submitted billings for extended Home Health Care CNA services.

How does a child with special needs qualify for Home Health Care CNA services?

- Children and youth qualify when they are unable to do their own ADL's due to medically based condition(s).
- The child needs to be evaluated for eligibility. A referral from the child's doctor is required and the doctor has to verify medical necessity.
- Children are evaluated and served through what is called a "Single Entry Point "(SEP) agency according to the county where they live.
- A child's evaluation includes completion of the Long Term Care Utilization Tool (ULTC 100.2). The evaluation determines what the parent is doing every day for their child that is beyond what most parents have to do for feeding, dressing, and supervision for a similarly aged child without disabilities. The nurse doing the evaluation often sees things that the parent is doing for their child that the parent takes for granted.

What options are available to me for help with my child/youth's daily care?

- Home Health Care- Agency staff as provider
 - An evaluation determines what kind of help is needed.
 - Home health agency provides a certified nurses' aide/attendant to come to your home.
 - Medicaid is often the only source of payment for these services other than direct out of pocket payment by the family.
 - Medicaid authorizes services (following the evaluation) based on medical necessity.
- Home Health Care- Parent as Provider:
 - Same as above *except* a parent or family member actually becomes a Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) and is employed by Home Health Care agency as a provider for their child.
 - Parents or family member must complete a training class and pass a written and clinical exam to become a CNA. Visit the Department of Regulatory Agency (DORA) website to see the list of Approved Nurse Aide Training Programs in Colorado:
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/education/CNAprogramsCounty.pdf>
- Consumer Driven Attendant Support Services (CDASS):
 - A relatively new Medicaid benefit for people 18 years and older under the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.
 - Clients are allowed to manage their attendant services instead of paying an agency to provide home health care.
 - For more information about CDASS call: **303-866-2755** or **1-800-221-3943**, ext **2755**. Or visit the HCPF/cdas website at:
www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1210324172195 - 14k
Or click on the following link
[HCPF:Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services \(CDASS\)](#)
- Health Insurance Buy-In (HIBI):
 - HIBI pays for the health insurance premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and/or co pays for children on Medicaid who have private health insurance plans, too. Call **303-866-2031** or **1-800-221-3943**, ext **2031**

Where do families start?

- Apply for SSI and Medicaid.
 - Most private or commercial insurance plans don't have benefits that pay for health services beyond the immediate recovery stage. Private plans are not designed for long-term care.
 - Medicaid and SSI benefits are designed for individuals including children with chronic conditions expecting to last more than 12 months.
 - Families might be over income for Medicaid, however you should pursue applying for one of the Medicaid "waivers". Denial of SSI is necessary to obtain certain Medicaid waivers.
 - Even if you don't need services right now, **apply now**- for both. The process is lengthy and Medicaid "waivers" have waiting lists.
- Talk with your child/youth's doctor about medical necessity & referral for home care services. Have the doctor give the information to your Single Point of Entry agency (SEP).
- Find out who is the SEP for your county and call them about setting up an evaluation. Go to this website for listing of counties with links to SEP agency contact information:
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1210324172195>

Or click on this link [Single Entry Point Agency](#)

- Contact **Family Voices** for questions on this topic and if you have a problem with a health insurance plan, communicating with a service provider, navigating Medicaid or other public systems, or need individual health insurance counseling. **1-800-881-8272**
- Contact the State Public Health program called “**HCP**” [Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs]- HCP can answer questions on this topic and connect you with other valuable resources **303 692-2370 1-800-886-7689** www.hcpcolorado.org
- Coming soon to the HCP website new Fast Fact Sheets on Parents as their Child’s Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) and How Home Health Agencies Hire Parents as CNA.

Children with Special Health Care Needs Unit
Prevention Services Division ~ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment